

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended and claim 3 is added. No new matter is added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

I. Claim 1 Objection

Claim 1 is objected to because of informalities. The objection is obviated by the above amendments. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. Prior art rejection

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/00808695 (Ohsawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,856,916 (Bonnet). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applied references fail to disclose or suggest a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus including "a voltage-doubler circuit connected between the secondary side and the booster circuit for providing the discharge lamp a voltage which is obtained by adding an output voltage of the rectification circuit to the output voltage of the secondary side," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action correctly acknowledges that Ohsawa does not disclose a voltage-doubler circuit, but asserts that Bonnet teaches implementing a voltage-doubler circuit for a converter driving a discharge lamp. The Office Action further asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the voltage-doubler circuit adding to the secondary side voltage, with output voltage generated by the rectification circuit having the forward function and the flyback function. See Office Action at page 3.

However, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add alleged voltage-doubler circuit C4, D5 and D6 disclosed in Fig. 10 of Bonnet to the circuitry of Ohsawa. For example, the booster circuit 12 of Ohsawa does not have an input port to accept the output voltage from the alleged voltage-doubler circuit of Bonnet. In this regard, Bonnet and Ohsawa do not suggest combining the alleged voltage-doubler circuit so that it is "connected between the secondary side and the booster circuit for providing the discharge lamp a voltage which is obtained by adding an output voltage of the rectification circuit to the output voltage of the secondary side," as recited in claim 1.

Significantly, the Office Action fails to articulate why a person of ordinary skill in the art would connect the output of D6 of Bonnet onto the booster circuit 12 of Ohsawa in Fig. 3. In view of the above deficiencies, we believe that there is no motivation to modify the transformer circuit of Ohsawa to incorporate the alleged voltage-doubler circuit of Bonnet as alleged by the Office Action. That is, the Office Action has failed to provide explicit "articulated reasoning with a rational underpinning" to support its legal conclusion of obviousness. *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.*, No. 04-1350, slip op. at 14 (U.S. April 30, 2007), citing *In re Khan*, 441 F.3d 997, 998 (Fed. Cir. 2006).

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and therefore are also patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons enumerated above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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